



# SWARCKER NEWS

January 2011

## MINUTES FROM MEETING

No minutes of the past two meetings have been submitted.

Next meeting February 7, 2011

Dinner Pot Luck

Meeting Place:

Fuquay-Varina First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall at 307 N Ennis St.

Dinner at 6:00pm with the meeting to follow at 7:00pm

Program has not been announced.

Check out our nightly Nets on the 145.210 (BLACKJACK) repeater.

Sunday.....W3OJO.....Joe  
Monday.....AJ4NX.....Adrian  
Tuesday.....KA0GMY..Steve  
Wednesday....KJ4CVK...Kenny  
Thursday.. Need Help  
Friday.....NC4MP.....Mark  
Saturday...Need Help

Nightly nets start at 7:30 pm

Traders net held on Tuesday nights after the shortened rag chew net.

## NET WHIP REPORT

Our net whip has gotten a large case of lazys this past couple of months. No net report has been submitted. Now I do know that the net controllers have been submitting the reports so we just have to figure how he broke his typing hand. I am sure it is broke or the reports would have been submitted. Ok Mark I am calling you out.

## WHERE ARE MY NET REPORTS?

## HAMFEST

Hey guys guess what ....HAMFEST SEASON.... is here. Firstfest is in Winston-Salem on the 29th of Jan. It is always a nice little fest. That will be followed up by FrostFest in Richmond, Va on the 5th of FEB. If you are new to hamfest these are to great fest to get started with. Let's try something this year. If you go to a hamfest then how about reporting what you thought of it. Was it what you expected? Did it offer you what you were looking for? Was it hard to get to? How was the parking? Let everyone know how you feel. Good or bad we will put it in the news letter.

## PROPAGATION NOTES

### SB PROP ARL ARLP002 ARLP002 Propagation de K7RA

Average daily sunspot numbers declined 12 points to 38 during the past week - when compared to the previous week of December 30 through January 5 - when the average was exactly 50. Average daily solar flux declined by nearly six points to 83.8. The latest forecast shows solar flux at 80 on January 14-15, 78 on January 16-21, and back to 80 on [January 22-25](#), 82 on [January 26](#), 88 on [January 27-30](#), and 89 on [January 31](#). The same forecast has planetary A index for January 14 at 8, January 15 at 7, and January 16-31 at 5.

Geophysical Institute Prague sees unsettled geomagnetic conditions on January 14-15, quiet to unsettled January 16, unsettled [January 17-18](#), quiet to unsettled [January 19](#), and quiet on [January 20](#).

The STEREO mission's coverage of the entire Sun is nearly complete, with continuous images showing more than 99.2% of our nearest star. By [Sunday evening in North America](#), the project will have passed 99.34% coverage. The black band of unseen area (seen at <http://stereo.gsfc.nasa.gov/>) is now just a tiny sliver, and magnetically active areas over the entire Sun may now be observed live from any place with an internet connection at any time of the day or night.

In last week's Propagation Forecast Bulletin ARLP001 we discussed W1YO's comments on HF propagation, and this prompted a question from Howard Lester, N7SO of [Schuylerville, New York](#). He thought it would be more instructive if we intended to illustrate seasonal variation by using the same sunspot number for the April prediction as for the January prediction. That is true, but since the prediction engine is based on a statistical model that employs the predicted smoothed sunspot number (not the latest actual sunspot number), I thought it would be interesting to use the official smoothed prediction from [NOAA](#), to illustrate how conditions might actually play out. Thus we changed two variables, the date and sunspot number. It is important to keep in mind that the smoothed sunspot number for January is predicted as well, because it uses about a year of data to arrive at the number. We know what the last six months of data is, but the component that makes up the next six months is predicted, and currently unknown. So in order to know the true smoothed sunspot number, you need to go back at least six months.

In last week's bulletin we used the table on page 11 of the document at <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/weekly/pdf/prf1844.pdf>. In that table, all of the smoothed sunspot numbers from January 2009 through June 2010 are known quantities. Each month after June 2010 uses a declining number of months of known data. July 2010 uses 11 months of known data, and one month (January 2011) of predicted data.

August 2010 uses 10 months of known data, and two months

(January-February 2011) of predicted data, and so on.

How do past predicted smoothed numbers compare with the ones we now know for sure? The first six months of 2010 have known smoothed sunspot numbers of 9, 11, 12, 14, 16 and 16. If we go back two months, to the first week in November, ([http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/weekly/2010\\_WeeklyPDF/prf1835.pdf](http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/weekly/2010_WeeklyPDF/prf1835.pdf)), the numbers for the same months track closely (9, 11, 12, 14, 16 and 19). Of course, going back two months, the only months the smoothed sunspot number is not known for sure are May and June 2010.

Every time we step back a month, the series diverges a little more from the actual outcome. At [http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/weekly/2010\\_WeeklyPDF/prf1831.pdf](http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/weekly/2010_WeeklyPDF/prf1831.pdf) we see October's projection for those months, and it is 9, 11, 12, 15, 18, and 21. Go back to [http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/weekly/2010\\_WeeklyPDF/prf1827.pdf](http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/weekly/2010_WeeklyPDF/prf1827.pdf) and it is now 9, 11, 13, 16, 19 and 22 for September. In August we see 9, 11, 14, 17, 20 and 23 at [http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/weekly/2010\\_WeeklyPDF/prf1822.pdf](http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/weekly/2010_WeeklyPDF/prf1822.pdf). In July at [http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/weekly/2010\\_WeeklyPDF/prf1818.pdf](http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/weekly/2010_WeeklyPDF/prf1818.pdf) we see variation all the way back to January, at 10, 13, 15, 18, 21 and 24. You can see now why forecasts for the increase of this [solar cycle](#) keep getting scaled back to track actual outcomes more closely. W1YO commented this week that Cycle 24 is different. "It's slow to limb and the effects of high SSNs and solar flux are not long lasting. I have been through 5 [solar cycles](#) and this one is not normal."

Larry Godek, W0OGH of Gilbert, Arizona commented on 6 meters in the New Year: "January 11 just after midnight GMT, ZL1RS was worked on 6 CW followed by VK3OT then ZL2TPY on SSB followed by VK4MA back on CW. What a surprise opening that was. Hopefully this is leading us into a very good January VHF contest weekend coming up soon. Neither high power nor big antenna systems needed for these QSOs. I only have 100 watts and a 5 element Yagi at 40 ft fed with 1/2 inch hard-line. Signals were very easily copyable without wearing cans." Jon Jones, N0JK in Lawrence, Kansas (EM28) reported on January 12, "Made my first 6 Meter QSO (and first QSO) of the New Year 2011 today with XE2OR/m. "Rafael was mobile in the rare grid DL97 and worked at 2330 UTC Jan. 9 on 50.125 MHz via E-skip. He was strong with considerable QSB. Heard him work a few other zeros and N5JEH NM also spotted him. He was using an IC-706MIIG and a [whip antenna](#). "Noted 2x Es from Costa Rica to Colorado and earlier in the afternoon single hop from ZF to W4." If you would like to make a comment or have a tip for our readers,

email the author at, [k7ra@arrl.net](mailto:k7ra@arrl.net).

## DX NOTES

### SB DX ARL ARLD002

ARLD002 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by NC1L, The Daily DX, the OPDX Bulletin, DXNL, INDX, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

**MAURITIUS, 3B8.** Operators Josep, EA3BT and Nuria, EA3WL will be QRV as 3B8/home calls from January 23 to 29. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using mostly SSB with some CW and digital modes. QSL both calls via EA3BT.

**FIJI, 3D2.** Udo, DL9HCU is QRV as 3D2HC. He is here for about two months. Activity is generally on 20 meters using CW and SSB with QRP power around 0500 to 0800z. QSL to home call.

**ZANZIBAR, 5H.** Sam, F6AML is QRV as 5H1Z from Jambiani until January 24. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

**MADAGASCAR, 5R.** Operators Andy, SM1IRS, Al, SM4HAK and Eric, SM1ALH will be QRV as 5R8HL on IOTA AF-013 and on Nosy Be Island, IOTA AF-057, from January 17 to February 4. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via SM1ALH.

**MALTA, 9H.** John, G8HWI will be QRV as 9H3JS from January 18 to 30. Activity will be mainly holiday style on 20 meters using PSK31 and low power. QSL to home call.

**URUGUAY, CX.** Special event station CW5RV is QRV during 2011 in commemoration of Louis Varney, G5RV, the inventor of the famous antenna. QSL via operators' instructions.

**NEW CALEDONIA, FK.** Operators Hermann, DL2NUD and Stefan, DL9GRE will be QRV as FK/home calls from January 16 to 26. Hermann will be active on 2 meters, 70 cm and 23 cm EME. Stefan will be active on the HF bands. QSL to home calls.

**HAITI, HH.** Members of the Radio Club d'Haiti are QRV as 4V1 until January 20 from various locations in commemoration of the 2010 earthquake. Activity is mainly on 20 meters. QSL via N3OS.

**MOUNT ATHOS, SV/A.** Monk Apollo, SV2ASP/A is active on a few HF bands and will be using CW, SSB and RTTY. Lately he has been active on 20 meters using RTTY. QSL direct to home call.

**PALAU, T8.** Tsutomu, JA1VND is QRV as T88TF until January 18. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

**CHAD, TT.** Elke, TT8ET is QRV from N'Djamena. Lately she has been active on 20 meters using SSB. QSL direct.

**BELIZE, V3.** Gerd, DJ4KW and Gisela, DK9GG are QRV as V31YN and V31GW, respectively, until February 27. Activity is on all bands and modes. This includes entries in various upcoming contests. QSL to home calls.

**MACQUARIE ISLAND, VK0.** Kevin, VK0KEV is QRV until April 30. QSL via JE1LET.

**NORFOLK ISLANDS, VK9N.** Operators Alan, VK3XPD, Kevin, VK4UH and Mike, VK3KH are QRV as VK9NA until January 20. QSL via VK3KH.

**CHRISTMAS ISLANDS, VK9X.** Operators JA3BZO, JH3PBL, JI3DNN, JA3AVO, JA3UJR, JA1CJA and JA3HJI are QRV as VK9XA, VK9XL, VK9XN, VK9XO, VK9XJR, VK9XXY and VK9XJ, respectively, until January 20. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL to home calls.

**OPERATIONS APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT.** The following operations are approved for DXCC credit: Uganda, 5X1XA, 2010 operation; and Kermadec Island, ZL8X, 2010 operation.

**THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO.** The North American SSB QSO Party, AWA Linc Cundall Memorial CW Contest, QRP CW Fox Hunt, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, LZ Open CW Contest, Hungarian DX Contest, UK RTTY DX Contest and Feld Hell Sprint are all on tap for this weekend. The Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest is scheduled for January 17. The QRP CW Fox Hunt is scheduled for January 19. Please see January QST, page 84 and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest web sites for details.

## SWARCer News

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Red Cross Generator Maintenance

It is a new year and time to renew our meetings.

It looks like Saturday, January 29th @ 9:00am is the next available date for everyone to get together. If you do not mind getting up a little earlier then join us for the real fun at Big ED's @ 8am

BIG ED's  
City Market Place  
220 Wolfe Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601

The real work will begin at 9 am at 100 Pear tree Lane.  
Also my work schedule is changing so we need someone to take over as the lead if we keep meeting on Saturdays. If I stay as lead we will have to start meeting on Sundays.

I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Michael Rowland  
N3YEP

Ok gang here we go. We are always talking about public service. Here is a chance to do some good community service. Enjoy a good breakfast at Big Ed's and then go work on the Red Cross generators. I know that Mike will appreciate the help and it will get you out in the community. Let's get out there and give Mike a hand.

BUSINESS NAME			
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PO Box 1565 Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526	President: Jeremy Barnard	KG4FYX	
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### Public Service through Amateur Radio.

South Wake ARC's primary purpose is to further the Amateur Radio Service through programs, activities, and education, in order to promote the radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency of our members. Further, it shall be our purpose to support the welfare of our community through public service including radio communications for emergency situations and public events, and through providing information, training, and assistance to individuals or organizations with an interest in the Amateur Radio Service.